

PRAIRIE FIRE

an independent community newsweekiy

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* EDITORIAL *

The PRAIRIE FIRE is an innovation for Regina -- a metropolitan newsweekly which will represent the interests of the people of the community.

We've begun this venture out of a concern for seeing justice done in our society -- justice for workers, farmers, students and youth, consumers, Indians, Metis, small businessmen, professionals, etc. We're concerned that Regina has for years had only one newspaper, and we share the feeling of many in the city that this paper has not spoken for the people.

News should be written by and for those who experience it, and by and for those whose legitimate interests are at stake. Thus the PRAIRIE FIRE will try energetically to become the kind of paper in which those whose voices are never heard can tell things the way they see them.

Right now it is difficult for us to live up to these words, for most of us are students. But we are convinced that the people of Regina will support a newspaper which they themselves, can read and write about the things that are important to them. And we are convinced that we will grow, that more and more people from different parts of the city will bring their own stories to the public through a news medium which truly offers them that chance.

At least these are the hopes with which we begin publishing. Obviously the PRAIRIE FIRE can't become a community newspaper without the community.

This means--to put it very simply--that we need you. We need you to help us understand and explain how people are affected by the major conditions of life in the 1970's.

All of us know that the "progress" of our society masks some extremely critical problems for all of us.

As citizens and consumers, we face chronic inflation, rising taxes, economic insecurity and extreme differences in wealth. We are caught in a spiralling race for "more" which is seldom satisfying, seldom successful usually impossible to understand.

Our physical environment gets less healthy year by year; housing for most of us is inadequate; and millions continue to live in poverty. Our resources are given away to large corporations-- mainly American, and few of us see very much of the "industrial development" which this is supposed to bring.

For farmers it is increasingly difficult to grow food with which to feed people and, at the same time, survive economically. A thriving and meaningful rural life may soon be a thing of the past if the situation continues and more and

more farmers are forced to sell out to large, absentee corporations.

The working man and woman discover that their wages do not keep pace with the cost of living. They discover that "their" government cooperates with the major corporations in trying to keep their unions from gaining strength. They begin to realize that working conditions are no more fulfilling today than in past years.

Finally, this is the world into which young people must try to fit themselves. It is often an extremely unpleasant task, and a growing number of youth agree that the educational system offers little help. Indeed, it seems geared primarily to molding us to fit standardized corporate needs, goals which are hard to accept when it becomes apparent that those needs must be critically re-examined.

We are not willing to accept these conditions any longer. We are convinced that this is also the feeling of many other individuals and groups in the province. But we also recognize that one of the things which keeps people from demanding a more decent society is their inability to communicate with each other publicly. Peoples today live in isolation from their fellow men, and this makes us anxious and insecure about the validity of our own feelings.

We think it is obvious that Regina's present news media cannot even begin to change this situation. Their reporting is clearly biased toward the interests of the big companies and the governmental bureaucracies which serve them. They consistently present the status quo as the only rational society possible. Thereby they neglect the real concerns of the people, isolate people from each other, and ultimately convince us that we do not really know what our lives are like.

The PRAIRIE FIRE offers itself as an honest community weekly which will be written, edited, distributed, paid for by the people of Regina. It pledges itself to trying to bring the people of Regina together, to beginning to broaden our perspectives, and to providing people with a means of discovering that what they have to say is really important.

Our success or failure clearly depends on community participation. We ask for financial support. We ask for volunteers to help us distribute on the streets and sell subscriptions.

Most important, we ask people to consider the PRAIRIE FIRE their newspaper, and to bring us stories about the conditions which are crucial to them.

-the staff

THE PRAIRIE FIRE

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LETTERS:

The PRAIRIE FIRE is a community newspaper, and will attempt to provide people in Regina with a forum for discussion and debate as well as for the expression of grievances. Therefore we solicit letters to the editors and will print as many as possible. Please keep your letters short. All letters must be signed. Names will be withheld on request.



HOSPITALS FACE SEVERE CUTBACKS

Hospitals exist to serve people who are ill. The question in many peoples' minds these days is whether or not this is being done in Regina, where hospital beds have been closed down, nurses are unemployed, and patient waiting lists grow continually.

The situation began in August, when both Regina General and Grey Nuns Hospitals suddenly learned the Provincial Government would not make additional grants to cover their operating deficits for the year. In previous years the government has made such grants to both hospitals, since the hospitals have normally overspent the funds allotted to them.

The result of the governmental decision was that Grey Nuns---at that time facing a \$320,000 deficit by January--was forced to close down 15% of its beds. Approximately 80 part-time nurses were laid off, and only some of the vacancies refilled. In addition, all departments were ordered to reduce services by 10%.

The General Hospital faced a \$425,000 deficit for the year. Some financial relief came from the Saskatchewan Hospitalization Services Plan in a \$200,000 extra grant in August. Still, it has been necessary to freeze staff levels there, too, by refraining from refilling a few positions vacated at the end of the summer.

But the General Hospital has not closed down any of its beds, and many doctors now send their patients there rather than to Grey Nuns. Thus General's waiting list has grown markedly in the past month or two, while the waiting list for Grey Nuns has actually declined slightly since the austerity program was begun.

Taking both hospitals together, then, it has become increasingly difficult to get anything but emergency care. The Provincial Government justifies this situation by referring to its declining revenues for the year. But it says nothing about why it has decided to reduce the level of health care when it could cover its deficits by making greater reductions in less urgent and crucial areas, such as highways and corporate subsidies.

According to Grey Nuns Assistant Administrator Kenneth R. Clarke, there has been no reduction in the quality of services offered to patients. This directly contradicts information given to The Prairie Fire by nurses who have

worked at the hospital since the budget freeze.

On July 1, the nurses reported, a memo was distributed among part-time staff advising them to apply for full time positions if they wished to continue working at the hospital after Sept. 1. This meant that about 80 part time nurses left the hospital. The small proportion of these vacancies which were refilled were given to summer graduates from the province's nurses' training program, recently changed from a three- to a two-year degree.

These new nurses are paid less than more experienced nurses, thereby saving the hospital money. The problem with this change is that the less experienced nurses often lack the necessary competence and confidence to give high-level patient care.

Moreover, the slight drop in the waiting list for Grey Nuns is compensated for by reduction in available bed space---from 390 to 330. For the patient, therefore, the delay getting into the hospital may well be just as long or longer. While the patient waits, his condition may advance from elective---not urgent--to emergency.

A number of nurses are also distressed that the hospital has hired at least two new administrators since July and has completed expensive renovations on administrative offices.

The General Hospital, on the other hand, has chosen not to close down beds or reduce staff and services. According to the chairman of the hospital's board of directors, Kenneth P. Hodges, its administration has not filled vacated positions only when it was obvious that services could still be maintained with a new division of labor among existing staff.

This does not mean the situation is rosy at the General, however. Some services have had to be cut back--such as routine chest x-rays when patients are admitted---and further measures are being taken to tighten up hospital procedures. Moreover, the situation at Grey Nuns has forced the General Hospital to increase the daily average of beds occupied from the 600 for which it is budgeted to 660.

The way the General Hospital has chosen to respond to the budget freeze seems to offer the people of Saskatchewan more adequate health care than the way Grey Nuns has responded. More adequate, that is, if one considers



Long waiting lists, but still beds are kept empty.

crowded wards, minimal staff and reduced services better than the possibility of no health care at all.

On the other hand, it has recently become clear just where the response of the General Hospital leads---to financial insolvency. The General still faces at least a \$225,000 deficit in January. The strong possibility that the City of Regina will be unable and unwilling to meet this deficit has already

forced the Board of Directors of the hospital and City Council to ask the Provincial Government to take the hospital over.

Meanwhile, the waiting list continues to grow. According to one staff member, the General is now operating with a maximum patient load and a minimum staff. Chairman of the Board Hodges agreed that this was essentially an accurate assessment.

HIGH SCHOOLS BAN 'POLITICAL' LITERATURE

The PRAIRIE FIRE was banned from Regina high schools before it came to press for the first time.

Our high school correspondents were informed by the principal of their school that the sale or distribution of any literature with any political bias - or any bias whatsoever - on school property was a violation of the regulations of the school board.

Our correspondents, members of the Regina High School Students' Union, said that their newspaper, THE FOURTH ESTATE, was also banned from all but one of Regina's high schools last year. However the students informed us that other newspapers have been distributed openly in their schools. A newspaper put out by the Regina Rifle Regiment was distributed freely at Miller Highschool recently. Apparently this type of militarist propaganda has no bias.

Another organization with no bias, Junior Achievement, has been welcomed into our highschools. Organized by Regina's Chamber of Commerce, Junior Achievement provides young people with an early start in profit-making ventures by helping them to start their own small corporations. If this has no political bias what does?

Apparently, it is only certain biases which are not allowed in the schools. Mem-

bers of the Highschool Students' Union claim that the "anti-propaganda" laws exist only as an excuse to stop criticism of the educational system and criticism of society in general, from reaching the student body.

The students told the Prairie Fire that radical criticisms of the system are censored from existing school newspapers and all in-school media, this means that an independent vehicle of communication is necessary.

At one school, every program produced for the school TV network which had any relevance to school problems was censored completely! A TV program announcing the publication of the Prairie Fire was censored completely, as was a program which called for a change in regulations concerning the length of hair, mustaches, etc. Another program on drugs was repressed. At the same school (Miller) an article criticizing the role of the educational system in Canadian society was banned from the school newspaper.

The schools should immediately open to criticism. Freedom of expression is a basic right for all people and as long as Regina's highschools repress dissent they are violating a right of the people.

Schools exist to serve the people, not to oppose the rights of the people!

FARM CRISIS DEEPENS

Saskatchewan farmers with small and middle-sized holdings are being squeezed out of existence.

This summer farmers massed together for the first time in many years in an attempt to let the people of Canada know some of the problems Prairie people face.

The farmers greeted the Prime Minister of Canada in both Regina and Saskatoon with militant demonstrations. They offered concrete alternatives to ensure that they could continue doing what they enjoy doing the most--growing cereal crops.

The farmers tried to tell the country that something called the "cost-price" squeeze was drastically cutting into their incomes and driving them off the land.

They were asking that some of the control which Eastern corporations exercise over the "costs" of Prairie farming be taken away.

Eastern corporations, with little if any objection from federal and provincial authorities, can and do establish all the basic costs of the farmers -- machinery prices, supplies, availability of credit and basic living costs.

On the other hand, the income of farmers from the sale of farm produce is governed by a world market dominated and manipulated by "agri-business." Produce is dumped or held back in different regions of the country. This price manipulation, a tool available only to those with large amounts of money on hand, destroys the income of the producer while enlarging profit margins for the businessman.

Price manipulations further affect farmers where single firms have taken over different levels of particular industries. For instance, the Weston Co. operates in all areas of the food industry.

The National Grain Elevator Co. has expanded into both primary food production and retail sales. At the same time, in partnership with Litton Industries, it is developing a national chain of farm retail "super-markets" to handle everything from farm machinery to refrigerators to groceries and ballpoint pens. This means that the farmer is compelled to buy from and sell to the same profit-hungry organizations.

There are other ways of

profiting from the sale of such necessary goods as machinery, fertilizer and graineries. Thus planned obsolescence -- the purposeful manufacturing of machinery designed to fall apart in a relatively short time and the introduction of unnecessary model changes annually -- is one clear method of increasing profits.

The federal government, as the sole international selling agent, has authorized price cuts in export wheat of up to 45½ cents a bushel, with all losses being borne by the farmer. Even if sales are made which benefit the economy as a whole, the farmer will gain nothing, since his selling price is still below his costs of production.

It has been estimated that by 1980 over 50% of the Prairie farming community will have been eliminated. Even now, many farmers' incomes must be supplemented by either part- or full-time work in the nearby cities.

Statistics compiled by the Canadian Agricultural Congress Task Force for 1966 clearly indicate that the farmers who will be eliminated are small or middle-sized operators.

Those Canadian farms that were smallest in terms of gross sales per farm -- less than \$5000 per farm per year --- represented 55% of all farms. But gross sales for the farmers owning these lands accounted for only 14% of total gross sales in Canada. Moreover, the value of these farms, including land and buildings, was only 28% of the value of all Canadian farms.

On the other hand, the 4.6% of the farms whose gross sales were the largest in Canada---over \$25,000 per farm per year---accounted for almost one-third of total gross sales. The three-quarters of the farms whose average sales were less than \$10,000 also accounted for one-third of total gross sales.

Such statistics show the insignificance of the small and middle-sized farm in terms of total production in the farm economy.

The small farmer must live in poverty while producing the world's most essential commodity.

The struggle of the farmers and their supporters is to maintain the rural community for the production of good goods and to maintain control of that production.

If the present trends in

agriculture continue, the farmer, by direct or indirect means, will lose more and more control of the factors which determine what he produces, how much he produces, how he produces it, and the return he gets on his work.

This would see the present rural community forced into rural poverty and cultural decline. Between 50 and 75 thousand families would be forced into the cities, where jobs are already difficult to find.

On the other hand, control of the food industry could be placed in the hands of producers if regional planning and public market controls were established and directed by the farmers. This would eliminate waste, inefficiency and the excessive profits of large corporations. But for this kind of thing to happen,



Trudeau insults farmers.

farmers would have to practice what they already realize: only by getting together can they continue to exist in rural communities that are worth living in.

CO-OP WORKERS CONTINUE STRIKE ACTION

For over two weeks now 130 disillusioned workers have been trudging up and down the street in front of the Regina Sherwood Co-operative Association.

They are members of Sherwood and members of the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union, Local 539. They are on strike because management has refused to enter into collective bargaining with the union. Management wants to take away some of the benefits that workers at Sherwood have struggled for over the years; it wants to impose wages that would be below that of the union settlement with local chain stores.

The situation at Sherwood was put very well by one worker who was interviewed on the picket line:

"I am a firm believer in the spirit of cooperation. And you know, the thing that really burns me up is that I'm a member of this co-op. I have one share in it, yes, one share just like that scab manager over there waiting on that paid scab from Federated Co-op in Moose Jaw.

"And that young boy over there who took a job as a strike-breaker, and indeed at better wages than they ever paid us. Well, I ask you, what does he know or care about the co-op principles that most of the people on this picket line believe in?

"When I joined this co-op some years ago, I felt proud that I was participating in an

organization that was run co-operatively, in the best interests of its members.

"And it was at one time, believe me. The people who supported and built up this co-op were fine people. Why, they were really concerned about each other and about how a fellow was getting on.

"Well, that's one of the main issues in this strike; that cooperative community we once knew is gone now.

"Look at those managers in there, selling out my equity by running huge advertisements and selling goods at super-low prices."

Federated Co-op and the Board of Directors at Sherwood have decided they have the power to make all decisions that affect the overall operation of Sherwood. They have taken the situation out of the hands of the membership and have made several decisions which, if followed through, will break every principle the co-op movement built itself around.

Every member of Sherwood is losing equity and service as long as management refuses to bargain with labor. The working people are made to suffer economically. Most severely, they are made to feel totally disgruntled because they have lost, along with the rest of Sherwood's members, something that was owned and controlled by the people, and in their best interest.

ESTEVAN MINERS REMEMBERED

This is the first of what we hope will be a continuing series of articles dealing with the history of Saskatchewan that has been repressed by those who control our province's schools.

The history of the struggle of the people of this province and country against the oppression they have felt is rarely if ever recounted in the classrooms or textbooks.

There are still people around who have experienced these struggles, and we will work hard to get their stories into print so that all of us can better understand our history. We sincerely hope that some of these people will contact us with the history they remember.

It is only through this kind of awareness that we can then look at our present conditions and understand them.

Before Sept. 29, 1931, the town of Estevan in southern Saskatchewan was barely known in other parts of Canada.

The Bienfait-Estevan area didn't make the press at all, let alone the headlines.

The fact that 600 coal miners and their wives and children lived there under the most miserable conditions as compared with the worst mining towns elsewhere in Canada didn't seem to rate newspaper attention.

The organization of the unorganized meant hard work, something that was not relished by many of the reformist labor officials. So they did not heed the voices of the hard-pressed miners appealing for help. They did not see the undernourished women and children of that depressed community.

The job of organizing there remained for the militant trade unionists to do--the Mine Workers' Union of Canada, affiliated with the Workers' Unit League of that day.

Early in the summer of 1931 the Mine Workers' Union undertook to help organize the miners in Estevan.

The miners there worked from 10 to 14 hours a day digging coal at 25 cents a ton. Many of them worked in water, since no effort whatsoever was made by the mine owners to drain the water from the coal pits.

The Provincial Mines Act was flagrantly violated by the operators. The miners were cheated on the weight of the coal they dug. The company owned the stores, and the miners were cheated there as well.

The miners had made many efforts to discuss their grievances with the operators, but with no success. The owners stood firm in their opposition to unions. Miners who complained were fired.

But union organizing continued to move ahead, and the first action came at the end of August, 1931, when one mine was shut down for two days by a strike.

Early in Sept., the Pro-



Downtown Estevan, 1931, as people await the labour parade.

vincial Labor Minister met with both sides. The owners followed their previous position and refused to recognize the union. To the miners, there was no other course open but to strike.

The strike started on Sept. 7 when 600 miners refused to go to work, shutting down eight deep-seam mines. Scabs were brought in but could not smash the picket lines. The miners were solid.

On Sept. 27 a mass meeting at Bienfait, to which the whole town turned out, agreed to a parade and mass meeting in Estevan Sept. 29. The purpose of the action was to bring out in the open the reasons behind the just struggle of the union.

The miners, their wives, and children formed the parade. It was attacked at the outskirts of Estevan. The first miner to be dragged from his car was Martin Day, one of the union leaders.

Cars and trucks were smashed and the town fire brigade turned their hoses on women and children.

Reports say the chief of police started the shooting. Many were wounded; three miners were murdered and more than 50 wounded.

Nick Norvan, Julian Hryshko and Peter Markunt were the miners who were killed. On their gravestones were the words, "Murdered by

the RCMP" along with a red star. The words and the star have been rubbed off the stones, but the graves can still be seen in Estevan.

In the aftermath of the battle, 16 union leaders were arrested and charged with rioting. The union headquarters was raided by armed squads of RCMP, and house-to-house searches were conducted throughout the district. Miners struck in sympathy in Crow's Nest Pass and in Lethbridge, Alta.

Fourteen miners were sentenced to prison terms ranging from one month to two years.

Public pressure forced the federal government to set up a Royal Commission to investigate the massacre.

The Commission, headed by the district judge of the judicial district of Estevan, reported that the union should be recognized and contracts negotiated and that steps should be taken at once to remedy the grievances of the miners.

The report said the inspection of mines was inadequate, and it put forward a long list of changes including adequate safety equipment, improved ventilation, adequate medical care, erection of wash houses, a good drinking water supply and a maximum time underground of eight hours.

What happened in Estevan 38 years ago was not a mistake--not an unfortunate error of judgement that is best forgotten.

The repressive apparatus of the state, the police and the courts was placed at the disposal of the owners of property and used against those whose sole crime was to try to end their condition of powerlessness and exploitation.



RCMP welcome marching miners in Estevan, 1931.

POLICE: UNSKILLED LABOUR?

In Regina it takes more training to learn how to shave a head than it does to learn how to be a policeman.

The total amount of training for a Regina city police constable is 216 hours, compared with an average of 1450 hours of training at Regina's two barber schools. The Prairie Fire has learned.

A study done by the International Association of Chiefs of Police has compared minimum state requirements for selected professions. The average minimum was found to be more than 11,000 hours of training for doctors, 9000 for lawyers, 7000 for teachers, 5000 for embalmers, 4000 for barbers, 1200 for beauticians, and less than 200 for policemen.

Complaints about the quality of police training have been common in other cities. This includes police training in larger cities which generally have longer training periods.

Inspector M. P. Collins, head of public relations for the City Police Department, said the six week training period for recruits begins in January yearly. Training and recruitment in Regina is of the same standard as in most North American cities of the same size.

New recruits are generally enlisted about once every two months throughout the year. A recruit who enlists in February receives no training at all for eleven months. These recruits are generally under the supervision of patrol sergeants until the sergeant judges the recruit is able to operate by himself.

Constables are generally brought in after an average of five years' service for another two-week training course. It has been found more effective in terms of what the officers actually absorb to divide the training course into two parts. It is hoped eventually officers will be brought in for training after two years.

The training program focuses on the learning of criminal law and includes physical training, foot drill and the learning of federal and provincial statutes. Teaching is geared to people with a Grade 10 education who have had no previous experience in law. No courses are given in sociology, criminology, or psychology. The lack of these courses, a lack common with almost all police training programs, including the R.C.M.P., has been seriously criticized in many



Regina's Finest: But just how fine are they trained to be?

other North American cities.

Critics point out that in a place where an officer is faced with many different kinds of people, drunks, juveniles, immigrants, students and non-whites, it is important to know something about what makes these people tick.

They also point out it can be useful to know what causes people to commit crime, or what kinds of crime different kinds of people are likely to commit.

To this question, Inspector Collins said, "If we had the time we'd like to see it (sociology, criminology, and/or psychology) in there, but we have to pick what is of prime importance, and this is the enforcement of the laws. You'd have to increase your course by four weeks and you can't expect the taxpayers of Regina to pay for courses in criminology and sociology."

When the need for such courses was pointed out, Inspector Collins replied, "You can't get racism out of them by training if they've been brought up to be racists."

Education has been proven to increase people's tolerance toward other races.

City police are recruited by passing an interview with Inspector Collins, in which he looks for signs of cockiness or ill temper among other things. After passing the interview, recruits must be screened by a three-man board on which Inspector Collins does not sit. He also checks on a recruit's personal background.

An applicant must be at least five foot nine and one-half inches tall, and "per-

fect physical condition is required." Imposing physique is more highly prized than mental stability. No emotional or psychological tests are given to applicants.

In Chicago, where testing does occur, between 1961 and 1963 an "excessive number" of applicants rejected for patrolman suffered from paranoia (being suspicious and mistrustful of others).

"There is something about police power that attracts to its ranks a particular kind of person," according to Dr. Arnold Abrams, a member of the Chicago examining team.

"It gives them an umbrella to legitimize their pathology. They can act out their problems and be rewarded for them."

The same kind of analysis, however, can be applied to the motives of judges, surgeons, soldiers, political candidates and journalists. In fact, police work also attracts large numbers of men who sincerely want to serve the public.

In California, one study showed 50 percent of one police force (Sausalito) had the same psychological profile as doctors and ministers.

Although North American police forces have improved their technical skills and make use of elaborate equipment, much criticism has been directed at their lack of education and their inadequate training.

Some critics claim that for such an "important job", police in North America do not have the training, skills and understanding of society to do the job.

POLLUTION THREATENS PROVINCE

Residents of Lumsden and the Qu'Appelle Valley area are threatened with a serious water pollution problem due to severe pollution of the Moose Jaw River and Thunder Creek, which feed the Qu'Appelle Lakes.

A brief presented to Moose Jaw City Council on September 2nd charges that wastes desposited in the two streams by local industries have turned the area into an eyesore and prevent its use by the people of Moose Jaw.

The problem is particularly acute since Moose Jaw has recently become a designated area for economic development and the possibility of new industry locating in the city exists. Action must be taken to control pollution by such industries and to clean up what has already been done.

The brief entitled "Pollution Kills", was presented to the council by G.G. Hudson on behalf of the Moose Jaw and District Labour Council. Named as major contributors to the problem by the brief were the Canadian Forces Base sewage treatment plant, the C.P.R. waste pits and car cleaning area, Canadian General Transit tank car repair and cleaning plant, feed lots located on the edge of Thunder Creek west of Moose Jaw, and the Gulf and Husky oil refineries.

During an inspection of waters in the Moose Jaw area the Labor Council discovered oil-soaked shores near the Canadian Forces Base. "Odour and fumes took the breath away and made eyes water in the Canadian General Transit plant area. Oily water, scum, floating blobs, and an absence of plant and animal life characterized the Gulf Oil refinery area.

The brief specifically recommended that the council "do everything in its power to gain control of the river as a natural resource of this province and develop it in such a way that it betters the way of life for the people of this province" at the expense of the guilty industries and that the industries involved be ordered to undo the damage already done where it is still possible.

The presentation to Council included sixty snapshots and more than twenty samples from the two streams. Aldermen were warned not to smell the samples too closely or to

drink them, but by the time the samples were all opened, escaping smells made the council chambers reek.

At that time the council moved to table the brief in order to allow time for the industries named to reply to the charges. Two weeks later, council defeated a motion that the matter be referred to the Saskatchewan Water Resources Commission and to the federal government for recommendations, on the grounds that the industries should be allowed still more time to reply. A motion by Alderman Elliott that the companies be given two more weeks to reply was also defeated. Said Ald. Andrychuk, "I'm not compelling them to present a brief".

According to Grant C. Mitchell, Executive Director of the Saskatchewan Water Resource Commission, Section 38 of the Water Resources Commission Act "prohibits any person, except as authorized by the regulation, from discharging, depositing, draining or releasing any substance capable of changing the quality of water or causing pollution. The City of Moose Jaw has authority to pass a bylaw to control pollution of the streams in question within the limits of the city. "As we see it, the by-law would cover such things as the dumping of garbage, manure, refuse, etc. which may or may not actually cause pollution of the water but would most certainly create a nuisance with respect to odour and aesthetics." Mr. Mitchell said in a letter to the Moose Jaw City Clerk.

The Labour Council's brief concluded, "We hear so much today from those in positions of power and influence about law and order and see city councils passing by-laws to prohibit the congregating of groups of young people on our city streets. Well, I ask only one question, how about some law and order regarding the congregation of pollutants in our river - or is law and order only applicable to certain classes of citizens?"

Moose Jaw City Council's only action on the problem has been to table the brief until October 27th. The Water Resources Commission has been studying the problem since the summer but has taken no public action to date. Meanwhile, the Moose Jaw River and Thunder Creek become more and more polluted every day.



Sewage pours into Moose Jaw River.

exiles

Each week scores of deserters from the U.S. military forces arrive in Canada. The number of deserters and the creation and growth of anti-war groups in and outside the States, indicates the lessening degree to which American foreign policy is supported.

The reasons for desertion differ according to individual experience. There are many ex-G.I.'s who through the questioning of their own personal and social experience and through studying alternative literature have come to the conclusion that the war in Vietnam is unjust, and that it is not in the interest of the "freedom" of the people but rather in the economic interests of the corporate structure of America. With the growing consciousness inside the military, servicemen search for alternative methods of expression and action. The American Servicemen's Union is an important vehicle for the struggle of rank and file soldiers, sailors, and airmen against the unconstitutional military structure.

Although the union is but two years old, the membership has soared to thousands, with locals in every branch of the service and in every country where U.S. forces are based.

Organizing inside the service is not usually continued when orders for Vietnam are served. At this juncture servicemen have two alternatives: turn themselves in, face charges and organize within the stockade, or seek refuge in another country such as Canada.

Committees have been formed in major cities in Canada to house and aid American immigrants in obtaining landed immigrant status. A few of these committees, The Regina Committee of American Deserters included, are interested in going beyond the normal charitable aid to the immigrants.

We feel that it is important, through the growth of present American policies, to provide ex-G.I.'s and the community around with the alternative information about the inequalities of the draft, the injustice of the world, and what part Canada has in supporting these.

We will be printing our column in each issue of the PRAIRIE FIRE, and we want to share with you information that is not normally available through the established media.

Anyone wishing to contact us may do so in care of the PRAIRIE FIRE.



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